

# 11. interpretation/history

## icons

Each of the 10 gateway columns has a unique icon that represents Downtown Renton past and present. An interpretive installation at the bottom of the column describes renton's history in text, photography, quotations, and poetry.

Rear of the column displays detailed interpretation

Large bookend side displays title

Front of the column displays a large image viewable from vehicle

Introduction text for pedestrian traffic

Home with a view  
The same nests are refurbished and used year after year. Nest size varies; newer nests may be 1.5 ft. (0.5 m) in diameter with older nests reaching up to 4 ft (1.2 m) in diameter. Nests can also be used by Canada geese, house sparrows, and great-horned owls.

Airborne 747  
The great blue heron as largest North American 2 ft. (60 cm.) tall and 3 - long, weighing up to 5.5 pounds (2.5 kg). It has a 6 ft. (1.8m) wingspan and while in flight tucks its neck in a characteristic S-shape, with its long legs trailing along the body axis. It has a slow deep wing beat and frequently calls a deep croaking fraunkink. Distinctive field marks include a large, grayish-brown and white face and crown with wide black bands terminating in usually two plumes, and yellowish bill, long and tapered. Juveniles are brownish, with gray crowns and no body plumes.

An avid fisherman  
The great blue herons America, great blue herons are found in a variety of wetland habitat types. Herons usually feed in calm, slow waters including lakes, rivers, ponds, marshes and swamps. They are occasionally seen foraging in fields and wet meadows. The ideal nesting habitat occurs in wooded wetlands or on islands dominated by mature forests; isolated locations that discourage predation.

described in the heron standing 4.5 ft. (97-137 cm) pounds (2.5 kg). It has a 6 ft. (1.8m) wingspan and while in flight tucks its neck in a characteristic S-shape, with its long legs trailing along the body axis. It has a slow deep wing beat and frequently calls a deep croaking fraunkink. Distinctive field marks include a large, grayish-brown and white face and crown with wide black bands terminating in usually two plumes, and yellowish bill, long and tapered. Juveniles are brownish, with gray crowns and no body plumes.

December Morning  
What was it? An upright gray umbrella, furled?  
On spindly legs circling the pond?  
Where splashes of raw sky reflected in the dark water sheer as glass?  
Where beauty was so stark it hurt the widened eye?  
Where suffused with that strange joy that overcame us often we stood at the tall window, arms around each other's waist, as if such comical blindness were a blessing of our lives.

Great Blue Heron  
The great blue heron can be found throughout much of North America and into Central and South America as well. In Washington, great blue heron is classified as a common permanent resident.  
The great blue heron is mostly a colonial nester, occasionally they nest in single pairs. Colonies are typically found in wetland areas, islands, and forests adjacent to lakes, ponds and rivers. Nests are usually in trees and may be as high as 98 ft. (30 m) or more from the ground. The platform like nests are constructed out of medium-sized sticks and materials may be added throughout the nesting cycle. Nests are usually lined with finer twigs, leaves, grass, pine needles, moss, reeds, or dry grass.

mining, aviation, high-tech, Jimmy, music, cedar

rookery, fishing

boating, farmer's market, athletes, railway, canal

duwamish

A

B

Listing of all column topics

## locations

Exhibits are wrapped around the bottom of the column so they can be viewed from all sides. Larger panels are perpendicular to traffic, smaller panels are parallel.

